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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
24 September 1954

TO: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Impending Guatemalan Elections

1. Date: 10 October 1954
2. Offices to be filled: A constituent assembly of 66 members.
3. Parties participating: All political parties have been dissolved. Organized participation will be by various anti-Communist factions all of which, though divided on other issues, support the "liberation" movement led by Castillo Armas.
4. Key political figures: Lt. Col. Carlos Castillo Armas, leader of the June anti-Communist revolution and now provisional president.
Juan Cordoba Cerna, a prominent civilian leader of the liberation movement and adviser to Castillo Armas. Now appears to have presidential ambitions.
5. Principal issues: The constituent assembly is expected to be instructed to ratify past decrees of the provisional government, elect Castillo Armas to a fixed term as president; and then adjourn.
6. Electoral strength: Castillo Armas is very popular with the general public and candidates with his backing appear assured of election.
7. Principal factors influencing outcome: The new electoral law is designed to assure the election of pro-Castillo candidates. Any potential opposition lacks organization and leadership.
8. Outcome of other relevant elections: Not applicable.
9. Informed opinions: The assembly is expected to be generally favorable to Castillo Armas and subservient to his wishes, but factionalism among the various groups supporting him

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may lead to bickering among them.

10. Probable significance for US security interests: The Castillo regime will probably be at least temporarily strengthened by cloaking itself in a semblance of constitutionality. The elections could be a serious divisive factor, however, if any of the major anti-Communist groups are denied effective participation.

The obviously rigged election, together with other government actions suggestive of dictatorship, will be exploited in Communist propaganda against Castillo and the United States.

KNIGHT W. McMAHAN
Acting Assistant Director
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Orig: WESTERN DIV



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